

**From:** Risto Raitio  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/3/02 5:02am  
**Subject:** Justice and free market economy or Microsoft socialism (very briefly!)

Helsinki, January 3, 2002

Dear Justice Officer,

I am a (retired ) theoretical physicist who has worked with computers for 30 years, the last ten years in an international software company. I've learned American way of life as a visiting scientist at Stanford University in 1974-76.

May I call your attention to the following points: first quoting Mr. Ganesh Prasad of Sidney, Australia  
([http://linuxtoday.com/news\\_story.php3?ltsn=2002-01-02-002-20-OP-MS](http://linuxtoday.com/news_story.php3?ltsn=2002-01-02-002-20-OP-MS)):

- "Microsoft has also had secret agreements with OEMs that prevent them from offering consumers the choice of which operating system to boot when they start up their computers."

- "Microsoft's monopoly profits are the direct result of these and other illegally anti-competitive tactics."

- "It is being argued that in the current difficult economic climate, Microsoft should not be broken up or otherwise punished, because that will in turn affect the rest of the economy (through a fall in the stockmarket index, a delay in the recovery of hardware sales, more unemployment and hardship, etc.). On the contrary, the lessons of Economics are that monopolies are always bad. They reduce efficiency, innovation and economic activity. In other words, Microsoft's monopoly has already affected the economy adversely."

Microsoft speaks often of their innovations. Most educated people consider Microsoft rather an implementor of other companies' innovations. For example, the graphical user interface and the spreadsheet software Excel. Another example, Microsoft realised the importance of the Internet quite late. Microsoft's unstable operating systems (all of them before Windows 2000), proprietary software and binary file formats have caused high and unnecessary expenses for Microsoft software user organisations. Of course, Microsoft claims the opposite. But I'm not against Microsoft, I'm only against illegal business methods. In fact, a decent kind of Microsoft is needed!

The bottom line is whether the United States Justice system wants to maintain the free market economy or open the door to centrally controlled sectors of economy, which are known to fail ultimately.

Sincerely,

Risto Raitio, PhD  
Espoo, Finland